

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MEXICO AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to share with my colleagues a brilliant analysis of the political and economic crisis in Mexico. The essay discusses the multiple causes that triggered the Mexican crisis, explains the measures that the Mexican Government has implemented to overcome the crisis and offers insights of the position our Government should adopt to help this troubled developing nation to flourish again.

This report was written by C. Allen Ellis—a well-known international specialist who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and diplomatic skills and whose opinion is respected in our country, Mexico and in the international financial circles. Among the multiple duties of his professional life, Mr. Ellis has served as an advisor to senior political, diplomatic, and financial authorities of the United States and Mexico. He also participated in the North American Free Trade Agreement process as advisor to key members of the United States Congress, the Government of Mexico, and Mexico private sector interests. And most importantly, Mr. Ellis is an active member of the North American Institute, an international think tank based in the heart of my district in Santa Fe, NM. I believe that my colleagues will benefit greatly from Mr. Ellis' report.

MEXICO AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE

(By C. Allen Ellis)

THE 1994-1995 CRISIS

The years 1994-1995 were two of the most turbulent years in Mexico's modern history since the Revolution of 1910. An indigenous uprising in the southeastern state of Chiapas, which could represent a flashpoint for the vast number of our southern neighbor's rural and urban poor, continued to fester. Luis Donaldo Colosio, the presidential candidate of the country's dominant political party for 65 years, the Partido Revolucionario Institucional ("PRI"), was assassinated March 23, 1994 as he initiated his campaign, and a possible conspiracy and its participants is an issue which the judiciary and law enforcement branches of the government have been unable to resolve to date.

A relatively unknown substitute and politically inexperienced PRI candidate, Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León, was elected President September 1, 1994, in what observers and participants alike concluded was a model democratic election in Mexico.

The above dramatic events, along with a continuing rise in international interest rates, and a massive acceleration in Mexico's balance of trade and current account deficits, resulted in a growing erosion of confidence by foreign and Mexican investors

alike in Mexico and in its capital market, which the bulk of capital flows earlier had found attractive, notably in the form of "Tesobonos", short-term, high-yielding, essentially dollar-denominated instruments.

The Government of Mexico's reliance on "Tesobonos" and on escalating short-term internal financing to meet its short and long-term financial needs, was compounded by the failure of the outgoing administration of President Carlos Salinas to address the challenging issue of an over-valued currency. The international financial community would have accepted a devaluation prior to its leaving office, given its confidence in Mexico's outgoing political leadership and financial authorities, but the decision was made to avoid this unpalatable choice.

President Ernesto Zedillo and his inexperienced political and financial team were thus confronted, three weeks after taking office, with the fateful necessity to devalue. It was, inevitably, a failure, given its having to be attempted before the new administration had established its political and financial credibility compounded by its handling of the devaluation proper.

The result of the above-described confluence of events was a crisis year 1995 in which Mexico experienced its worst recession since 1932 with a fall in its gross domestic product of 6.9% inflation in excess of 50%, its currency devalued by a third against the dollar, at least 15,000 business failures, additional millions of unemployed or underemployed and a shattering loss of confidence by the Mexican people at all levels of society in the workings of their traditional political system and in their political and economic governance.

Fortunately for Mexico, and in the national self-interest of our own country, President William Clinton, his financial team and the Federal Reserve Board were joined by the international financial community and key members of both parties in our Congress in approval of timely and massive financial assistance to Mexico. This was in response to the economic stabilization program adopted by President Zedillo and Treasury Secretary Guillermo Ortiz, in close consultation with Secretary Robert Rubin and his team at Treasury working in tandem with the international financial agencies.

THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SCENARIO

At the recent Mexican Bankers Convention held March 15-16 the mood of the assembled banking representatives and senior government officials was realistic, if not somber. It was in striking contrast to the prior gathering in October 1994 where outgoing President Carlos Salinas presided and lauded his Treasury Secretary for his abilities and loyalty.

President Zedillo in his address to the 1996 assemblage reiterated that the economic austerity program of his administration would be continued. Treasury Secretary Ortiz thereafter described the slowing in the fourth quarter of 1995 of the economy's free-fall in the second and third quarters. He predicted that a slow recovery, and fall in Mexico's continuing inflation, would begin in the second quarter of 1996, making possible achievement of the 3% growth rate target for the year with moderating inflation.

However, the assembled Mexican and foreign bankers remained particularly troubled by the continuing crisis in the banking system where prevailing interest rates of 40% and higher, similar bad debt levels as a percentage of loans, and a growing non-payment mentality by borrowers, even when able to repay, were of increasing concern.

Our country's 1995 trade deficit of \$15.4 billion with Mexico was the first year since 1990 that imports exceeded exports, and was principally due to Mexico's deep recession, the devaluation of its currency and our own booming demand. Our exports to Mexico, in a total of \$46.3 billion, were down approximately 9% from their 1994 level but still 11% higher than in 1993, the year before NAFTA took effect. Despite earlier dire forecasts by Ross Perot and others of the effect NAFTA would have on employment, the Department of Labor has reported that between January 1994 and February 1996 it certified for assistance 58,600 workers whose loss of jobs could be attributed to NAFTA, far fewer than had been predicted.

PRESIDENT ERNESTO ZEDILLO AND HIS POLICIES.

President Zedillo has begun his six-year term to end in the year 2000 embarked on a program to open and democratize Mexico's one-party political system, reform the authoritarian nature of its presidency, enhance the role of the legislative and judicial branches of government, and decentralize its federal-state relationships, all the while confronting Mexico's shattered economy and banking system. He has chosen a herculean course which, if successful, could dramatically change Mexico and result in its political modernization.

Many Mexicans, particularly among traditional political figures and their counterparts in the private sector, question whether this is the right course for Mexico and do not believe President Zedillo and his team have the experience, political skills and public support to accomplish the fundamental transformation involved. Notwithstanding there appears to be a gradual realization that President Zedillo, given his resolute and stubborn nature, will stay his present course. However, to assure the long-term success of this program his administration and he must develop greater political support at all levels within Mexico.

The importance of Mexico to our own country merits increasing appreciation here, not only as our partner with Canada in NAFTA, but as proof of the world's leading industrial democracy and a troubled developing nation, with which it shares a 3,000 mile border, can address their many common problems and prosper together.

IN HONOR OF ZUBERI MCKINNEY

HON. DOUGLAS "PETE" PETERSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on March 6, 1966, Zuberi McKinney, the beloved

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

son of the U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Gene C. McKinney, died as a result of a tragic automobile accident in Tallahassee, FL. Zuberi was 18 years old and attending his first year of college at Florida A&M University. Sergeant Major and Mrs. McKinney are long time residents of the Second Congressional District of Florida which I serve.

I lost my 17-year-old son several years ago in an accident very similar to that experienced by the McKinney family and know only too well the pain a family suffers having sustained a loss of this magnitude. It is a pain that never goes away, however there is comfort in that loved one's memory.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I wish to enter into the RECORD the words of Zuberi McKinney's parents as they celebrate Zuberi's 19th birthday. The composition speaks for itself in terms of compassion and grief, but it also speaks eloquently of a strong, close, loving family. A family whose bonds cannot be broken even in death.

IN HONOR OF ZUBERI MCKINNEY

Our Dear Son,

You've heard us say to you many times how we will always be proud of you and love you, No Matter What.

Today Dad and I were reminiscing about the Earthly life you have had and we have had because of you.

Sometime in September, 1976, we were told we would be parents approximately May 10, 1977. Who would have believed on May 10, in less than an hour from the time we arrived at the Frankfurt Hospital you were born!

We had researched our chosen names and daddy's name won because of a boy baby.

Zuberi Aswad. An African name from the Swahili language. Zuberi meaning Strong and Aswad meaning Black.

You grew quickly and learned lots. The first song you learned was, "Yes Jesus Loves Me."

Looking back over eighteen years you accomplished a great deal here on Earth. Your rambunctious sports years started at age three when you played on the Rowdies Soccer Team. You were skiing downhill at age five. You played football, baseball, tennis, percussion instruments in the band, piano, was on a swim team and played lots and lots of basketball, ending up on the Heidelberg Varsity Basketball team.

You were very inquisitive as a student and often challenged teachers, including us as parents. That was good . . . at times.

You always made friends easily and always had lots of them. We always noticed the characteristics of the ones you chose to keep as your closest friends. They were always mannerable, had a great sense of humor, had a goal in life and most importantly as you once said, "Couldn't be broke all the time."

You got to live a very adventurous life on two continents. Visiting many different countries and states. Experiencing almost every mode of travel possible. You always believed in fun. You had it and we enjoyed having fun with you.

We are very unhappy right now because we miss your earthly flesh and we cry out because of earthly feelings. But we Thank God that He chose us to be your parents. We Thank God that He chose you to prepare our place in Heaven. Because we know you'll get the best. And we Thank God for this prayer:

Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray the Lord my soul to keep
If I should die before I wake
I pray the Lord my soul to take.

You slept with us sixteen days before the Lord took your soul to shine down on us from Heaven.

The Guardian Angel we placed over your heart was kissed by ours and we will wear it representing we will Never Ever part from you.

We'll talk to you daily from now until Eternity.

Love you forever,

MOM AND DAD.

HONORING THE HENDERSONVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Hendersonville Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, and well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

BENJAMIN BURROUGHS, HAWAII'S 1996 RESPECTEEN WINNER

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, as part of the Lutheran Brotherhood's Speak For Yourself program, over 15,000 students nationwide wrote to their Members of Congress on various public policy issues. Benjamin Burroughs, an eighth grader from my district, was chosen as the Hawaii State winner of the letter writing contest. In his thoughtful letter regarding persons with disabilities, he drew from his brother's experience with autism. He effectively argued that Congress should strengthen the Individuals with Disabilities Act and increase public awareness on the issue.

Benjamin is only 14 years old, but he wrote an excellent letter on a complex topic. I applaud his concern and willingness to take action on a matter that directly affects his family. Benjamin attends Kahuku High and Intermediate School. I join with his parents, Lonnie and Jeffery Burroughs of Laie, HI, to congratulate Benjamin on an outstanding effort. The text of his letter is as follows:

January 30, 1996.

HON PATSY MINK,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MINK. I believe that with the new conservative Republican swing, there is a pressing problem that is like firecracker with a lit fuse waiting to burst. These legislators intend to put more power with the individual states and less with the federal government. This scares me because it is highly likely that some states will cut funding for the education of people with disabilities. In 1981 when federal law required education for children with mental disabilities from ages 3-5, states were given ten years to comply. Many states complied quickly but many did not. An example of this was South Carolina who waited until the last minute of the deadline to comply.

Early childhood intervention is a must. It is statistically proven that if children with disabilities are taught at an early age, they will be better able to function in society. If persons with disabilities are not taught early so that they can become productive members of society then they become financial burdens on society. It pays to intervene early.

My brother is autistic and if power goes to the states, a worst-case scenario would be that he couldn't go to school altogether. There are two major things that you can do as a representative to solve this problem. First, influence other legislators to sustain the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act [I.D.E.A.] and to maintain current federal mandates protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. Second is to require a module in every Guidance/Health class in High School that will increase the overall education of everyone about persons with disabilities.

I think that if these two things are done then my brother and thousands of persons with disabilities will be able to have a good education and a better life.

Sincerely,

BEN BURROUGHS.

HONORING THE VISION IMPAIRMENT CENTER TO OPTIMIZE REMAINING SIGHT [VICTORS] OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, it is a distinguished pleasure to announce to you that Mr. Joseph Maino, O.D. will receive the Olin E. Teague Award today on behalf of the Vision Impairment Center To Optimize Remaining Sight [VICTORS] team of Kansas City, MO.

VICTORS is a Department of Veterans Affairs special medical program designed to provide optimum low vision rehabilitation services to veterans with visual impairments. The team members evaluate, diagnose, and rehabilitate

veterans from a six-State area: Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. More than twenty medical centers and outpatient clinics refer blind and visually impaired veterans to the program. The center has helped more than 1,500 veterans since it first opened in 1979. The team members' continuing creativity and dedication results in innovative methods and tools to combat the effects of severe vision loss. For this reason, our Nation's veterans live better and more fulfilling lives.

The Olin E. Teague Award is the highest honor the VA awards in the field of rehabilitation. It is presented annually to a VA employee, or group of employees working as a team, whose achievements have been of extraordinary benefit to veterans with service-connected disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, the name Olin E. Teague is synonymous with exemplary service to the Nation's veterans and is the reason this award bears his name. The late Congressman Teague served on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for 32 years, 18 of those years as its distinguished chairman. He set the standards by which we can best serve all veterans.

It is with pleasure that on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I offer our deep appreciation to the VICTORS team for their concern, dedication, and innovation in meeting the special needs of veterans. We congratulate them for the excellence of their work and for the distinguished award they will receive.

REPUBLICAN BALANCED BUDGET PROPOSAL PART II

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership, just in time for Presidential election year politics is talking about a balanced budget again. This is déjà vu for the American voter who well remembers the campaign promises of Ronald Reagan who predicted that he could balance the Federal budget by cutting taxes and increasing spending. Candidate George Bush called that budgetary slight of hand "Voodoo Economics."

The results of two Reagan terms was a budget deficit which for the first time in any country's history used the term trillion to quantify the extent of the deficit.

I would assume that there is a campaign commercial spot for every stage of this upcoming budget drama that the Republican majority is planning.

Medicare, Medicaid, education, and welfare are on the top of the list for cuts right now, but I think that we can find ways to be fair and just when we make budgetary reduction decisions without shutting the Federal Government down.

I would hope that this next attempt to seriously deal with this Nation's budget deficit will include compassion for the poor, our children and the elderly.

We should not play election year politics with this country's budget.

HONORING THE JENNINGS CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

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By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

SHOULD A FEDERAL BUILDING BE USED FOR ILLEGAL PURPOSES?

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, the following article describes an event that should never have taken place in a Federal building. Even worse, after this vulgar event occurred, a followup recovery brunch was held in another Federal building—our own Rayburn building.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all of our colleagues will pay close attention to the following.

GOP: CHOOSING SIDES IN THE CULTURE WAR?

(By Marc Morano)

An all night homosexual "circuit" party called Cherry Jubilee's "Main Event" took place in Washington, D.C. on April 13, 1996. The dance party featured public nudity, illicit sexual activity and evidence of illegal drug use. The sponsors of the gay festivities included a GOP congressman and a host of corporations. A Federal building, the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, played host to the dance and was the backdrop for the illegal activity. The sponsors included Gay Republican Rep. Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin, corporate America including American Airlines, Snapple, Lite Beer, Starbucks Coffee, and Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream. The "Main

Event" was followed by a "Capitol Hill Recovery Brunch" on Capitol Hill in the Rayburn House Office building. Rep. Gunderson (R-WI) secured the Rayburn building for the "recovery brunch". All the net proceeds of the Jubilee weekend were to be distributed between Whitman-Walker Clinic and Food & Friends.

The Mellon Auditorium is a Federally owned building complete with classical ornate columns across the street from the Museum of American History on Constitution Ave. The "Main Event" was being described by the City Paper in Washington as "New York style gay 'circuit' party . . . usually drug infested." It was with this information that I proceeded on assignment into the gay world for an undercover investigation into the activities that occurred in a Federal building. My inquiry revealed that the Cherry Jubilee's "Main Event" featured a multitude of illegal activity.

The Jubilee's "Main Event" tickets were very hard to come by. The event sold out, which left a scramble for ticket scalpers outside the entrance. Several thousand men attended, most between the ages of 25-35 years old. Well over 90% were white, with only a few African-Americans and Asians present. Many of the men who attended were of obvious affluence. Limousines and even a Rolls Royce lined Constitution Avenue as the partygoers arrived.

The clothing was very trendy with skin tight black jeans, and tank tops. The bartenders wore bright neon underwear and nothing else. Many of the men arrived with leather and rubber pants and neon rubber loin cloth underwear only. Most of the shirts came off as the men headed for the dance floor.

Body piercing was ubiquitous with piercing in nipples, navels and ears. Chains and dog collars were also prevalent. In addition, cross dressing was a common sight, as a heavy presence of transvestites and other "transgendered" men attended. Men with wigs and dresses in heavy makeup strolled through the auditorium. Several pairs of lesbians attended as well, parading around in very skimpy clothing.

There were no signs of aggressive behavior, as most attendees greeted each other with open mouthed kisses. No fights or altercations occurred throughout the night. The terms "fags" and "girls" were frequently used by the men to refer to themselves.

Overall the men were generally very neat, with meticulous hair and clothing. There were few if any men who could be described as overweight. In fact, the overwhelming majority had bodies sculpted from weight lifting. Beer and bottled water were the beverages of choice, while apples, bananas and oranges were in plentiful supply. The image of young active health conscious men, drinking bottled water and consuming fruit is a study in contrast. The reckless lifestyle inherent in the gay experience results in a notably reduced life span. The life expectancy of a homosexual male is estimated to be no more than 41 years old, regardless of AIDS. The homosexual communities credo seems to be "Die young and leave a pretty corpse."

As the constant thump, thump, thump of the techno music heated the crowd, the dancing became increasingly lewd and suggestive. As the night wore on, the dancers began simulated sexual gyrations. The dance floor became a torrent of intense groping and stroking. Some couples dancing on table tops, mimicked anal sex through their clothing while others pantomimed oral sex. At one point while dancing on a table top, one

of the lesbians lifted her bra and exposed her breasts. Meanwhile, several inflated condoms were batted about like volleyballs.

At about 4 a.m., two men proceeded to engage in illicit sexual behavior in the main auditorium. One man lowered his head onto the crotch of another man and began to perform oral sex. This act occurred just off the dance floor in full view of the crowd. No one seemed to be fazed by it one bit.

The restroom stalls at the Mellon Auditorium were constantly being occupied by two men at a time. Gropes and groans could be heard emanating from the stalls with double occupancy. Stall doors would open and two men would nonchalantly exit. A battle between security and the party goers erupted over the restroom lights. Security was then forced to designate officers in the restrooms to ensure the lights remained on. The officers on duty did not look pleased with this assignment.

Every conceivable isolated spot became a dilemma for security. Security officers had to diligently watch the outside courtyard stairwell in the smoking area. The steps led to a dark alley on the side of the building where many of the men were congregating. The progression of couples heading into the darkness of the alley eventually forced security to intervene. Orange cones were erected to close the area off, as a security officer was assigned to stand watch. Public urination was common as the men relieved themselves outside and even in front of the building facing Constitution Avenue.

Despite signs posted everywhere stating, "Use or possession of illegal substances strictly forbidden", evidence of illegal drug use was present. Snorting could be heard throughout the evening in the bathroom stalls. At one point a straw fell onto the bathroom floor from inside a stall. There was also clandestine exchanges of money and substances in dark corners of the dance floor throughout the night.

This was not the first time that the Mellon Auditorium played host to a gay event. During the "1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation", the Mellon Auditorium was host to the officially sanctioned "The National S/M Leather Fetish Conference." The 1993 Gay March was designed to show America that gays are in the mainstream of society and just like everybody else. The S/M event featured members of the hardcore dominant and submissive homosexual community. Interviews I conducted at the time with participants revealed men who viewed pain as pleasure and total domination as an ideal. The participants paraded around the Mellon auditorium in dog collars, chains, and had piercing in every conceivable body part. Virtually nude men who were "submissive" were being led around on leashes by their "dominant" partners or "masters".

The 1993 S/M conference at the Mellon Auditorium also featured a slide show presentation, show casing an example of some of the "mainstream" aspects of the gay lifestyle. A series of graphic photos depicting various sexual acts were prominently displayed. One photo featured a man "fisting" another man. "Fisting" is the practice of inserting a fist as far up the anus as is possible. The image on the screen defied human anatomy. The arm was inserted up to the elbow. Participants at the event pondered the series of photos as though viewing priceless artwork.

The 1993 S/M conference also featured sexually explicit magazines and paraphernalia to help fully experience the S & M lifestyle.

One tract titled "The guide to safe S/M" cautioned that consuming fecal matter was a "high risk activity" for the transmission of the HIV virus, but maintained that urinating in the mouth was a "low risk activity". Several publications on display advocated pedophilia.

In order to procure a Federal building for any type of event, a maze of paper work must be filled out and adherence to strict regulations must be met. Despite the flaunting of public nudity, illicit sexual activity, illegal drug use and pornography at both of these homosexual events, law enforcement never intervened. Contrast this with the controversy that inevitably follows when someone attempts to erect a nativity scene in a public building.

The 1966 Cherry Jubilee weekend proves that the homosexual agenda is advancing in Washington. The use of two Federal buildings during the Cherry Jubilee weekend in Washington reveals how successful the homosexual lobby has been in "mainstreaming" their agenda. Voters, consumers and stockholders should hold the government and corporations accountable when they underwrite events like Cherry Jubilee. The voters need to ask which side of the "Culture War" the Republican party is on and what real change the so called "GOP Revolution" has wrought. The GOP leadership on Capitol Hill needs to explain how an event which featured illicit sexual activity, public nudity and evidence of illegal drug use was allowed to occur in a Federal building.

LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT OF 1921

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, as you know, our Nation's cattle producers face an extraordinary combination of devastatingly low cattle prices and a fed cattle market that has had its competitive nature potentially compromised. With the price of fed cattle even lower than during the Great Depression—when adjusted for inflation—it is critical that Congress and the administration act to improve the competitive nature of cattle markets and the prosperity of our producers.

I am pleased today to introduce legislation that will give the administration legal authority to enact the following reforms:

One, direct the Administrator of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration to develop and implement rules that prohibit noncompetitive captive supply. These should address potential limitations on packer ownership and feeding of slaughter cattle and formula arrangements in which price is not determined competitively. Cattle producers from across the Nation, including the thousands who have recently offered testimony to Secretary Glickman's Advisory Committee on Agricultural Concentration, have clearly identified noncompetitive captive supply as harmful to producers.

Two, direct the Secretary of Agriculture to devise and implement regulations that require mandatory reporting of the prices and terms of

sale for slaughter livestock—and the meat and byproducts of such slaughter—purchased by packers who have greater than 5 percent of the market for a given species. This information would be reported to USDA and be made public on an immediate basis. As we move toward an information-based society, the maxim that "knowledge is power" is especially true for our farmers and ranchers.

Three, direct the Secretary of Agriculture to develop rules that require the reporting of export sales of meat to USDA on a weekly basis. This action would help to ensure that all market participants have the opportunity to a level playing field in regard to information about the market.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that you and the rest of my colleagues share my concerns regarding the concentration in agricultural processing that is ripping through rural American and the potential that this concentration may in fact deny competitive markets for independent producers. I ask my colleagues to join me in making possible these much-needed reforms.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3401, THE BREAST CANCER RESEARCH STAMP ACT

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I introduced legislation which would provide additional funding for breast cancer research. This innovative idea would authorize the U.S. Postal Service to issue a special first class stamp to be priced at 1 cent above the cost of normal first-class postage. The additional penny would be earmarked for breast cancer research. If only one quarter of the first class letters in the country were sent with this stamp, breast cancer research would receive about \$120 million in additional funds.

The special issued first class stamp would be an entirely voluntary method for interested postal patrons to contribute to breast cancer research. The stamp would deliver a first-class letter as well as provide the satisfaction of contributing to a cause that saves lives.

Since 1960, nearly 1 million American women have died of breast cancer. That number is higher than all of the battlefield casualties that America has suffered this century. Moreover, the overall mortality rate for breast cancer has not changed much despite advances in pharmaceutical, radiological, and surgical interventions.

Given the intense competition for Federal research dollars in a climate of shrinking budgets, the Breast Cancer Research Stamp Act would allow anyone who used the Postal Service to contribute to research which will one day result in a cure for breast cancer. Any funds generated by sale of the breast cancer research stamp will supplement—not replace—current appropriations for Federal breast cancer research.

We need to find a cure for breast cancer now. I believe that the Breast Cancer Research Stamp Act is an inventive response to

an extremely serious health crisis. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

AMERICA DESERVES TAX RELIEF

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, this week, America's families finally began to work to provide for their own needs. For the first 128 days of this year, America's families worked to provide for the government.

Since President Clinton took office in 1993, his tax and spend policies have forced taxpayers to work another 6 days to pay their taxes—that is a week's paycheck that they cannot use for their families. The average American will spend more time working to pay his tax bill than he will spend working to provide for food, clothing, and shelter combined. Under the Clinton administration, the rate of growth of real median family income has been zero percent. America's families deserve better.

My Republican colleagues and I believe American taxpayers are taxed too much. If the President and his colleagues are serious about providing tax relief for hard-working families, they will take a first step and join us in our effort to repeal the 4.3-cent gas tax hike. Already, the President is threatening to veto such a measure—just like he vetoed tax relief for American families when he took his veto pen to the Republican balanced budget bill.

I guess the President and his colleagues just like taxes. They have not made an honest effort yet, to bring taxes to a reasonable level and give families back their own money. In fact, just 2 days ago, a colleague of the President brought the other body to a standstill during an attempt to repeal the Clinton tax, saying, "We are simply going to shut this place down." The President and his colleagues will stop at nothing to keep America's tax dollars.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Americans to earn more and keep more of what they earn. I urge the President and his friends to join my Republican colleagues and I and give American families the tax relief they deserve.

HONORING THE FARMINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Farmington Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire-fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

100 CLUB OF BUFFALO

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, Friday, May 17, 1996, will mark the 12th annual 100 Club of Buffalo and Buffalo Bisons Baseball/Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS Appreciation Day at North AmeriCare Park in Buffalo, NY.

This spectacular event will feature law enforcement, fire, and EMS vehicles, a Buffalo Bisons baseball game and a fireworks display. This fundraising event is yet another example of the 100 Club of Buffalo's continuing commitment to provide services to the members of law enforcement, fire, and EMS agencies, and their families, throughout western New York.

The 100 Club of Buffalo Inc. was founded in 1957 by former Buffalo Police Commissioner Frank Felicetta to provide financial assistance to families of public servants killed or seriously injured in the line of duty. The organization was only the second of its kind in the Nation and was called "Felicetta's Fellows" until it was incorporated in 1962 as the 100 Club of Buffalo Inc.

Over the last four decades, this independent, nonprofit and nonpartisan organization has grown to serve law enforcement, fire, and EMS officials in a variety of ways. The 100 Club has provided over \$1.5 million in assistance to more than 60 family members of fallen law enforcement and fire personnel, has sponsored more than 100 candidates to the FBI Academy and has provided tuition assistance and seminar training to more than 500 law enforcement and fire personnel. Moreover, the 100 Club has recognized public servants and private individuals for acts of heroism. In addition, the 100 Club has sponsored more than a dozen training seminars for law enforcement and fire personnel and provided more than 90 grants to assist injured police and firefighters.

The 180 members of the 100 Club of Buffalo reflect why Buffalo is the City of Good Neighbors, a community which recognizes as well as cares for those who make major sacrifices to protect it. They deserve our most sincere thanks, commendation, and best wishes for continued success.

ARMORED CAR INDUSTRY RECIPROcity IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1996

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Armored Car Industry Reciprocity Improvement Act of 1996. This legislation represents a major improvement to legislation originally enacted in 1993 which provided reciprocity among the States for weapons licenses issued to armored car crews.

Armored cars and their crews annually carry billions of dollars in currency, important documents, and other valuables. In fact, the Federal Government is one of the largest users of armored car services in the Nation, transporting hundreds of millions of dollars annually in currency, food stamps, and other negotiable documents. Because of the value of their cargo, armored cars remain a ripe target for crime and their crews must be armed to protect themselves and their cargo.

In order to address the problems arising from differing requirements among the States for weapons licenses, the Congress passed the Armored Car Industry Reciprocity Act in 1993. This statute granted reciprocity for weapons among the States, so long as the issuing State met certain minimum training standards and required criminal background checks, much like a driver's license. While this act has improved the flow of interstate commerce by reducing the need for armored car crews to obtain licenses in every State in which they might conceivably operate, we have found certain problems in the original act which need to be addressed if the law is to have its full effect.

The Armored Car Industry Reciprocity Improvement Act of 1996 makes several changes to the original act. It would:

Grant reciprocity for the weapons license and all other necessary licenses so long as the armored car crew member has met all requirements in his or her primary State;

Require FBI criminal background checks only for the granting of an initial license, and permits the State agency to use whatever means they deem best to check backgrounds for renewal applications; and

Eliminate the requirement that renewal applications be reissued annually.

These changes are primarily technical in nature, and result from the fact that, while the Congress was considering the original bill, many States changed their weapons licensing schemes.

Nothing in this legislation would make it easier for a criminal to obtain a weapon or circumvent State or Federal gun control laws. It simply allows the brave men and women who serve as armored car crews to worry about their job—protecting valuable cargo—rather than worrying about various States' licensing requirements and paperwork.

The original legislation was supported by groups as diverse as the National Rifle Association and the International Chiefs of Police, and groups such as Handgun Control International had no objection to its passage. Since

May 9, 1996

these changes simply are designed to improve the functioning of the original act, it is my belief that we can expect similar support for this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation when it comes to the floor.

FISCAL YEAR 1996 BUDGET

HON. PETER G. TORKILDSEN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the final piece of the fiscal year 1996 budget—the first downpayment on a 7-year balanced budget. This conference report is the product of months of negotiations and many compromises. It cuts discretionary spending by \$23 billion and sets the stage for the balanced budget this Congress promised to deliver.

A major victory in this package is language I sponsored to repeal the discriminatory ban on HIV-positive military personnel. The so-called HIV-discharge law was inserted into the fiscal year 1996 Defense authorization bill over the objections of the Pentagon, veterans groups, and many distinguished Members of the House and Senate. With the repeal of this provision in the conference support, I urge all my colleagues to cast a vote for simple fairness, commonsense, and all men and woman who serve our country with honor and distinction.

In addition, this budget plan restores over \$2 billion in Federal education funding. The original House-passed spending bill contained deep cuts in title I, School-to-Work, Goals 2000, and other key programs. The conference report restores much of the education funding needed to maintain a commitment to America's children and I urge my colleagues to remember that a vote for this bill is a vote for educational opportunity.

Finally, due to extensive good-faith negotiations, this bill is a win for our environment. It does more to protect endangered species than the original House version, and eliminates a provision allowing oil drilling at the Tongas National Forest—the world's largest temperate rainforest. And under the final compromise, the National Park Service retains management authority of the Mojave Desert National Preserve—as outlined in the California Desert Protection Act Congress passed in 1994.

Overall, Mr. Speaker, this budget package is the right thing to do for our children and grandchildren who deserve our best efforts to give them a deficit-free future. This plan is the first concrete step in honoring this commitment and I urge all Members of the House to support final passage.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Association of Letter Carriers who will be holding their annual "Food Drive" Day this Saturday, May 11, 1996. I would especially like to recognize those letter carriers in California's 13th Congressional District who have worked so diligently over the past few years to make this food drive such a great success.

The National Association of Letter Carriers' Food Drive Day began as a pilot program in just 10 cities in 1991. It has since grown into one of the largest one day food collection drives in our entire nation. Since 1993, letter carriers across the country have joined in a nationwide effort to make the second Saturday in May, "National Letter Carriers' Food Drive" Day.

This program has been a tremendous success. The first nationwide drive, in 1993, gathered 11 million pounds of food. In 1994, 32 million pounds of food were collected and in 1995 almost 45 million pounds of food were donated by postal patrons nationwide. This Saturday, letter carriers will pick up food donations as they deliver the mail. To participate, one leaves canned or non-perishable food next to one's mail box or takes it to the nearest Post Office. All of the food items collected that day are then delivered to local food banks.

Mr. Speaker, in the Bay Area, almost 300,000 people—half of them children—need emergency food. I urge you and my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the National Association of Letter Carriers for their efforts to help those who are less fortunate. I also urge anyone who can to participate in this Saturday's National Association of Letter Carriers' Food Drive.

HONORING THE FIVE POINT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Five Point Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars

where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION AND SOUTH ASIA

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I have long advocated the importance of the U.S. role in responsible trade in conventional arms and nuclear technologies, and I feel strongly that, as the world's remaining superpower, the United States can and should set an international example of positive political change through monitoring trade in nuclear technologies. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, I believe that stopping the proliferation of nuclear weapons should be our highest priority in international relations. I am a strong supporter of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and its member nations. The NPT has helped prevent dramatic increase in nuclear weapon-capable states. I was encouraged by last year's indefinite extension of the NPT by consensus over 175 nations, and I actively encourage the recognition of non-proliferation at every level as the key to global security.

Since its implementation in 1970, however, many nations that have remained outside of the NPT have concentrated on the buildup of their own nuclear capabilities. These threshold nuclear states view the NPT as discriminatory, because the treaty divides the world into the nuclear haves and have nots and, as they see it, unfairly places nonnuclear nations at a strategic disadvantage relative to the nuclear states. At the same time, several of these nations have stated that, without significant steps toward reducing stockpiles for all member nations, the NPT cannot be the foundation for an end to the arms race and complete nuclear disarmament.

Nowhere is this attitude more alarming than in South Asia. Regional religious and political history, particularly with India and Pakistan, has encouraged heightened military unease in the region, and an association of nuclear capability with regional dominance. Pakistan, a nation of 130 million, has long feared being overwhelmed militarily by India, with its population of over 900 million. Historical alliances and relations with nuclear and nonnuclear nations elsewhere in the region have contributed to forcing these two countries in a race toward

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nuclear weapon capacity. I believe the nuclear arms race saps the strength of any developing country, and I have repeatedly expressed my concern about the nuclear direction in which these two nations have been headed. The future of our national, as well as global, security depends more than anything on our ability to restrain the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to enhance the breadth of opportunities for every citizen of the world.

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 416

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. KIM. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of House Resolution 416, the resolution to establish a select subcommittee of the International Relations Committee to investigate the United States role in Iranian arms transfers to republics of the former Yugoslavia. As a member of International Relations Committee, I feel it is our duty to the American people to closely examine the Clinton administration's foreign policy decisions, especially those of such questionable intent.

As we all know, in September 1991, the United Nations imposed an international arms embargo on the area comprising the former state of Yugoslavia. The United States, under the leadership of President Bush, supported the passage of U.N. Security Council Resolution 713 as means to stem the flow of arms to the warring parties. When President Clinton took office in January 1993, his administration proposed lifting this multilateral embargo in order to help the besieged and poorly armed Bosnian military forces. After failing to gain international approval for lifting the arms embargo, the Clinton administration decided instead to abide by this resolution and even began helping enforce it.

Over the next 2 years, the Clinton administration consistently and repeatedly voiced its opposition to lifting the arms embargo by arguing that such a shift in policy would result in a pullout of European peacekeepers involved in the United Nations Protective Force (UNPROFOR) operation. In addition, the administration claimed that lifting the embargo would enrage our allies, endanger U.N. forces, necessitate further United States military deployments and weaken other international sanctions against Iraq, Libya, and Serbia.

During those 2 years, this Congress voted twice to unilaterally lift the embargo on Bosnia, in response to a growing sentiment among the American people. Unfortunately, the Clinton administration continued to resist these efforts through vetoes. The irony is, however, that while the Clinton administration publicly opposed a lifting of the embargo, it tacitly allowed arms into Bosnia from, of all countries, Iran.

The sad truth is this administration did not inform Congress of its decision to turn a blind eye, the news media did! According to the press, in April 1994, the Clinton administration was approached "with the idea of opening an

Iranian arms pipeline through Croatia into neighboring Bosnia." National Security Advisor Anthony Lake and Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott then presented the proposal to President Clinton who, on April 27, 1994, formally signed off on the idea. If this is not the epitome of hypocrisy, I don't know what is.

According to Clinton administration's own Department of State, Iran remains atop the list of countries that sponsor terrorism throughout the world. Iran is also considered one of the most egregious violators of human rights. Now I ask you, how can a President, who allegedly stands against terrorism and human rights violations allow one of the worst violators of basic United States foreign policy to obtain a foothold in Bosnia? In addition, if President Clinton was so worried about endangering U.N. forces when he opposed lifting the embargo, how can he explain allowing Muslim extremists to deliver arms into a country where U.S. forces are now stationed? Does he believe U.S. forces are less important than U.N. forces? I should hope not.

Once again, the Clinton administration has apparently mastered the art of flip-flopping on foreign policy. These questions that remain, however, are more serious than just U.S. credibility abroad. The most important of which is—did the administration violate U.S. law by allowing these transfers to occur? This, and many other questions, need to be answered to this Congress and the American people. That is why I strongly support House Resolution 416 which will establish a temporary select subcommittee to investigate this behind-the-door activity and determine what actions must be taken if U.S. laws were violated. It is unfortunate that it comes to this, but without congressional oversight into the actions of executive agencies and the President himself, every law is at risk of being broken. In that regard, I urge my colleagues to support the passage of House Resolution 416.

TRIBUTE TO DOREEN "PAM" STENEGER

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and a number of my colleagues to recognize Doreen "Pam" Steneberg of El Cerrito, CA, on the occasion of her naturalization as a U.S. citizen on Tuesday, May 14, and in celebration of her 60th birthday on Wednesday, May 15, 1996.

Pam is an incredible woman and humanitarian. She is foremost a loving mother and wife, whose unswerving commitment to her family is only rivaled by her infinite dedication to our Nation's children with disabilities. Learning of her own daughter's developmental disabilities in the early 1970's, Pam was thrust into a movement which now credits her as one of its driving forces. Ever acquiring expertise in the morass of our special education and related services systems, Pam quickly found herself guiding other families through the bureaucracy which she herself had been forced to traverse on behalf of her daughter. This inti-

mate understanding and insight uniquely positioned her to be an effective agent for change, and through this realization was born an advocate.

Pam is as driven by the disability movement as the movement is driven by her. Whether in her professional capacity as the parent advocate with the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, Inc., or in her numerous volunteer roles—president of the National Parent Network on Disabilities, chair of the California Developmental Disabilities Area Board V, to name just two—Pam's enthusiasm is ever present. I know that I am not the lone Member of this Chamber to have been overwhelmed and captivated by the fiery person passion which lies just beneath her diminutive stature and refined British accent.

Pam is a truly remarkable woman, and I am deeply honored and proud to call her my friend, and now the newest voter in my congressional district. Mr. Speaker, I invite all my colleagues to join me in saluting Pam Steneberg, welcoming her a citizen of the United States, and wishing her a very happy birthday.

THE IMPORTANCE OF STRONG UNITED STATES-INDIA RELATIONS

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of Members of the House the op-ed piece written by William Safire that appeared in the May 2, 1996, New York Times. In his essay, Mr. Safire points out the significance of the recent elections in India and the importance of strong United States-India relations. As a member of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, I gladly submit Mr. Safire's article for the RECORD.

WASHINGTON.—In 1975, when Indira Gandhi assumed dictatorial control of India and threw her opponents in jail, President Ford asked his U.N. delegate, Daniel P. Moynihan, what to make of that.

"Look at it this way, Mr. President," said Moynihan with a courtier's irony. "Under your Administration, the United States has become the world's largest democracy."

When Mrs. Gandhi later confidently stood for election, India's voters threw her out. Freedom was back, and the U.S. happily became the world's second-largest democracy.

This week, with dignity, honest balloting and relatively little violence, 400 million of India's citizens—65 percent of eligible voters, higher than here—go to the polls to select candidates from 500 political parties. It is the most breathtaking example of government by the people in the history of the world.

Americans don't hear a whole lot about it. President Clinton is busy being campaign manager for the Labor party in Israel's May 29 election, in effect telling Israelis to vote for Shimon Peres or else.

When he is not intervening shamelessly in Israel's political affairs, Mr. Clinton is barnstorming with Boris Yeltsin, trying to help him defeat Yavlinsky's reformers and Zyuganov's Communists in Russia's June 16 election. Washington is also headquarters for

the Clinton campaign for the U.S. Presidency, where he beefs up beef price to consumers while pouring strategic oil on troubled motorists. But in all the campaigning, no mention is made of India, where voters outnumber those in Israel, Russia and the U.S. combined.

As a result of this uncharacteristic White House forbearance, television coverage here about the biggest election has been next to nil. Not only do Americans not know for which Indian candidate to root, but hundreds of millions of voters are forced to go to the polls ignorant of Mr. Clinton's preference.

Why? Do nearly 900 million Indians not matter? American lack of interest is not new; a former Foreign Minister of India, one of Nehru's acolytes, told a U.S. envoy: "We would far prefer your detestation in your indifference."

One reason is that India strikes a holier-than-thou diplomatic pose, remaining non-aligned when there is no longer one side to be nonaligned against. Year after year, India is near the top of the list of nations that consistently vote against the U.S. in the United Nations.

We're wrong to let that overly irritate us. China votes against us, too, and unbalances our trade and secretly ships missiles to rogue states and jails dissidents and oppresses Tibet and threatens Taiwan and (cover the children's eyes) pirates our CD's—but we care more about what happens in China than what happens in India.

That's a mistake. Contrary to what all the new Old China Hands and other Old Nixon Hands tell you, India will draw ahead of China as a superpower in the next century.

Yes, China's economic growth rate has doubled India's, and China's Draconian control of births will see India's population exceed China's soon enough, to India's disadvantage. But China does not know what an election is. Despite the enterprise and industriousness of its people, despite the example of free Chinese on Taiwan and the inspiration of the dissident Wei Jingsheng, jailed in Beijing, China is several upheavals and decades away from the democracy India already enjoys.

Without political freedom, capitalism cannot long thrive. Already the requirements of political repression are stultifying the flow of market information in China, driving wary Hong Kong executives to Sydney. The suppression of dangerous data undermined technology in Communist Russia; it will hurt China, too.

Though more Chinese are literate, many more Indians are English-literate (more English-speakers than in Britain), and English is the global language of the computer. American software companies are already locating in Bangalore, India's Silicon Valley. Bureaucratic corruption scandals abound; India's free press reports and helps cleanse them, China's does not.

I'm rooting for Rao, the secular Prime Minister, who is more likely to move toward free markets than Vajpayee, his leading opponent. But whoever wins, it's a glorious week for the world's largest democracy.

HONORING THE GRANVILLE CO-OP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services

provided by the Granville Co-Op Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

MCGILL-TOOLEN HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to have this opportunity to rise before this body and bring to the attention of my colleagues the centennial celebration of McGill-Toolen High School in Mobile, AL.

In 1950, I had the privilege of obtaining my high school diploma from this distinguished institution and fondly remember the years I spent under the tutelage of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart.

McGill Institute was founded in 1896 through the generosity of two brothers, Arthur and Felix McGill, to offer "Catholic boys the advantages and facilities of acquiring with little or no expense, a literary, commercial, industrial, and technical education which would enable them to earn an honorable livelihood." Their charter was granted on February 15, 1896, and classes began November 29, 1897.

Bishop Toolen High School for girls opened in 1928 to offer young women an education that would develop "intelligent, cultured, healthy, and social-minded American Catholics devoted to their country's interests."

In 1973, McGill Institute and Bishop Toolen High School were merged to become McGill-Toolen High School. Combining the best from each school has produced an institution stronger than the two were separately.

From its inception as an institution of higher learning, McGill-Toolen has upheld the standards of Catholic education and fostered the intellectual and spiritual growth of thousands of young men and women in Alabama. This dedi-

cation to excellence and respect for the individual have been the cornerstone of McGill-Toolen and this single mindedness has not diminished over its 100-year history.

The mission of McGill-Toolen has always been comprehensive in terms of serving the educational and emotional needs of the secondary students in the archdiocese of Mobile. McGill-Toolen High School and its predecessors have, for 100 years, provided outstanding education grounded in the moral and spiritual precepts of the Catholic faith.

Today, McGill-Toolen High School is considered one of the finest institutions in the region in the areas of academics, technology, sports, and spiritual growth. Its students consistently rank in top percentiles nationally on achievement tests and are well prepared for both college and life. Over the years, more than 17,000 graduates have made outstanding contributions to the city of Mobile, the Catholic Church and our Nation.

On this 100th anniversary celebration of McGill-Toolen High School, let us fondly remember and justly congratulate the accomplishments of a fine institution and look forward to the next 100 years of academic and personal excellence to which the name of McGill-Toolen is so deservedly associated.

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF GAINESVILLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on May 14, 1871, an earnest group of east Texas Christians established the First Baptist Church of Gainesville, TX. On Sunday, May 19, 1996, First Baptist Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary—a testament to the hard work and dedication of its congregations and its pastors and to the ministry that First Baptist Church has provided in Gainesville and in Cooke County for more than a century.

From its humble beginning amid frontier surroundings, First Baptist Church has flourished through both good times and bad. The church's 44 founding members—some of whose ancestors are part of the present congregation—would be proud to see their church grow to its current roster of approximately 2,000 members. The church has occupied three buildings throughout its history. The first was destroyed by fire, and the second was replaced by the current facility in 1952. Since that time, as the congregation has continued to grow, the church has expanded to encompass a full city block and portions of two others. There have been 32 pastors of First Baptist Church, including the present pastor, Dr. Bennie Slack.

First Baptist Church has always had an active ministry. The church was active in helping meet the needs of members of the armed services, during World War II. Its leaders were instrumental in organizing the current food collection program for Cooke County, and its congregation continues to support a strong missions program. First Baptist has a large

and active youth group, a strong senior adult group, large choir, and strong music program—in addition to many other activities and programs for members of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, religious freedom was a principle upon which our Nation was established. Our Founding Fathers—and the founding members of First Baptist Church—would be proud to see this principle flourishing today in the churches of America and in communities like Gainesville, TX. Likewise, the present church members look back in appreciation for their rich heritage and for the hard work and dedication of all those who have come before them. They also look to the future—to the ministry and the opportunities for service in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege as the Representative for the Fourth District of Texas to pay tribute to the First Baptist Church of Gainesville on the occasion of its 125th anniversary, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our best wishes to the First Baptist Church for a future that will be as blessed as its past.

IN HONOR OF BISHOP OZRO T.
JONES, JR.

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, Bishop Ozro T. Jones, Jr. is to receive the 1995 Poor Richard Club Gold Medal at a formal dinner in his honor on May 10, 1996.

Bishop Jones is the second African-American to receive this award. The first was Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert N.C. Nix, Jr. Other gold medal awardees have included: Thacher Longstreth, Edward J. Piszek [Mrs. Paul's Foods], Sam McKeel [Philadelphia Inquirer], Lee Iacocca, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Bob Hope, Walt Disney, Claire Booth Luce, Rogers & Hammerstein, and many others.

Bishop Jones preached his first sermon at 14, was ordained by his father, Bishop Ozro T. Jones, Sr. at 16, was a missionary to Africa [Liberia] and associate minister in Monrovia in 1949. Bishop Jones received a doctor of sacred theology [STD] degree from Temple University. He is a board member of the American Bible Society. He was elected as a member of the board of regents of Oral Roberts University in 1990. He currently serves as pastor, Holy Temple Church of God in Christ in West Philadelphia. He is a general board member and presiding Bishop, Church of God in Christ, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania jurisdiction.

Bishop Jones is also a member of the Poor Richard Club. The Poor Richard Club is reportedly America's oldest club of advertising, communication, and business professionals. It was founded on March 15, 1906. In 1926, the Poor Richard Club conceived the idea of a Benjamin Franklin Memorial Building. In just 2 weeks, the club raised \$5,000,000 for the project. On May 15, 1934, the memorial building was officially opened. That building is now

called the Franklin Institute. The club has international members in Belgium, England, Bermuda, Haiti, South Africa, and Spain, and reciprocal clubs in London, Barcelona, Milan, and Czechoslovakia. In 1987 the club presented the International Medal to Bermuda Premier John Swan. In 1992, the second International Medal was presented to Chinese dissident and astrophysicist Fang Lizhi.

We congratulate Bishop Jones on being included in the most illustrious group, and we look forward to his continued involvement in, and service to the city of Philadelphia.

THE OUTPATIENT PHYSICAL THERAPY STANDARDS ACT OF 1996

HON. SCOTT L. KLUG

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. KLUG. Mr. Speaker, Representative PETE STARK, Representative JIM NUSSLE, and I are introducing the Outpatient Physical Therapy Standards Act of 1996. This legislation would extend the current coverage standards that exist for independent practicing physical and occupational therapists to physicians' offices that also provide therapy services. This proposal was included in the Medicare Preservation Act which passed the House last October.

Currently, physical and occupational therapists must comply with certain standards. A study released by the Office of the Inspector General [OIG], however, has revealed certain abuses of these standards when the therapy was conducted within a doctor's office.

The study stated that, "Almost four out of five cases or reimbursement as physical therapy in physicians' offices do not represent true physical therapy services." The study also found that many physicians are billing the Medicare program for therapy services provided by unlicensed personnel. OIG estimated that \$47 million was inappropriately paid for therapy services performed in physicians' offices in 1991.

Physical and occupational therapy services should be held to the same standard of coverage regardless of the setting in which they are delivered. The Outpatient Physical Therapy Standards Act of 1996 will help close a loophole in Medicare policy that will save millions of dollars annually while ensuring the delivery of high quality physical and occupational therapy.

HONORING THE GRANVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Granville Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School at Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

CORRESPONDENCE

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting for the RECORD a copy of the enclosed letter sent to Mr. John Linder.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 9, 1996.

HON. JOHN LINDER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR JOHN: I respect the right of every Member to communicate with colleagues via "Dear Colleague" letters, but your letter of May 8, 1996 goes beyond the pale.

Your statement that I "would use [my] position on the Ethics Committee to promote these phony charges after taking money from" a fundraiser contains the implication, or at least the innuendo, that I committed a crime—a statement that is false and actionable. Of course, as you must know from your own experience, the money contributed at fundraising events does not accrue to me personally but to my campaign, and it did not come from Mr. Jost but rather from campaign contributors—all legally reported under the FECA. Further, your contention that I am obligated to disclose "these relationships" when performing my duties on the Ethics Committee is incorrect. The rules governing this subject (Ethics Committee Rule 7) do not require or even suggest that a Member on the Committee disclose the identity of this fundraiser, or that he recuse himself in instances in which a fundraiser has exercised his First Amendment rights in his personal capacity on a subject within the public domain.

I expect the rough and tumble of political outbursts but I will not tolerate dissemination of false and defamatory statements such as those that you are circulating. Please be assured that I am fully prepared to take legal action if you do not immediately cease and desist these activities.

Sincerely,

JIM McDERMOTT.

UNFUNDED MANDATES AND CBO
ESTIMATES

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 was intended to assist Congress in its consideration of proposed legislation by providing information about the nature and size of possible mandates in those proposals. The Congressional Budget Office is directed by that statute to help in developing such information.

I wrote to the Congressional Budget Office to express my concerns about serious problems with the unfunded mandates information CBO provided on the conference report on H.R. 1561, the American Overseas Interest Act. That correspondence appears in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of March 22, 1996, at E426.

I would now like to submit the CBO response to my earlier letter. I am pleased that CBO acknowledges that it would be more useful to the Congress for CBO to provide the full cost estimate for any bill at one time, rather than in select parts, and that three of the four provisions in the conference report on H.R. 1561 would, in fact, increase costs to the States. I hope that in the future CBO will include such information in a single estimate at the time a bill is under consideration.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, April 18, 1996.

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Inter-
national Relations, U.S. House of Rep-
resentatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: I am writing in response to your letter of March 20, 1996, concerning CBO's intergovernmental mandates cost statement for the conference report on H.R. 1561, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1996 and 1997. Our mandates statement concluded that the conference report contained no intergovernmental mandates as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4).

In your letter, you raised two major concerns about CBO's estimate. First, you suggested that separating the mandates cost statement from the federal cost estimate for a bill or conference report diminishes the usefulness of the information for Members. I fully agree. As a general rule, CBO attempts to send out all information on a bill—the federal cost estimate, the intergovernmental mandate statement, and the private sector mandate statement—at the same time. Sometimes, however, we cannot complete all those statements at once, and in the interest of providing information in a timely manner, we send them separately.

Second, you questioned CBO's conclusion that H.R. 1561 would impose no intergovernmental mandates. Because the definition of mandate in Public Law 104-4 is a narrow one, a bill can increase costs for states and localities without imposing a mandate upon them. In fact, H.R. 1561 is just such a case. As you suggest, states would face additional costs if more refugees enter the United States and receive benefits from AFDC, Medicaid, or other public programs. CBO's estimate should have indicated the likelihood of

such costs, even though they would not be the direct result of new mandates imposed on the states.

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act defines a federal intergovernmental mandate as any provision in legislation, statute, or regulation that would impose an enforceable duty upon state, local, or tribal governments, except as a condition of federal assistance or a duty arising from participation in a voluntary federal program. Under the act, a provision that relates to large federal entitlement grant programs constitutes a mandate only if that provision would increase the stringency of conditions of assistance to state, local, and tribal governments under those programs, and only if the affected governments lack authority under that program to amend their financial or programmatic responsibilities to continue providing required services that are affected by the provision. Furthermore, section 4 of Public Law 104-4 specifically excludes from CBO's analysis certain kinds of legislative provisions, including any provision that "is necessary for the national security or the ratification or implementation of international treaty obligations."

Three of the provisions cited in your letter as having the potential to expand the states' burden of caring for refugees (sections 1104, 1253, and 1255) do not meet the definition of an intergovernmental mandate in Public Law 104-4. These provisions relate instead to the operation of the State Department's refugee and migration assistance programs. While states would face additional costs if more refugees and asylees are allowed to remain in this country, these costs would result either from state public assistance requirements that are not controlled by the federal government, or from an increase in the number of people eligible for federal entitlement programs. Because the bill would not increase the stringency of conditions for these entitlement programs, these provisions do not constitute mandates under the law.

Section 1256, the remaining provision of the conference agreement cited in your letter, falls within the section 4 exclusion, because it is necessary for the implementation of the international obligations of the United States under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Therefore, pursuant to the provisions of the act, CBO did not analyze its potential impact on state, local, and tribal governments.

Please let me know if you have further questions or concerns about this estimate or about the implementation of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. The CBO staff contact is Pepper Santalucia.

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL,
Director.

HONORING THE LAFAYETTE
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Lafayette Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AS-
SISTANCE AND SELF-DETER-
MINATION ACT OF 1996

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act offered as an amendment to the U.S. Housing Act of 1996 by Representative HAYWORTH. I am an original cosponsor of this bill because I believe there is a pressing need to assess and reorganize Native American housing programs in this country. This amendment is a strong step in the right direction.

Chairman LAZIO and his staff have put forth a great deal of effort to ensure that the needs of Native Americans in my State and across the country have been given serious attention and consideration throughout the crafting of this bill.

I agree with Chairman LAZIO and the Native American Indian Housing Council that Indian housing should be divorced from public housing programs because of the unique needs of Indian country and the many economic challenges that must be overcome. The U.S. Housing Act does not address these unique needs, and I believe including the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act as an amendment to H.R. 4206 will guarantee that quality housing for Native American communities is not neglected as Federal housing programs are revamped in Congress.

Housing is an integral and most basic component to economic development for Indian and non-Indian communities alike. I support the premise of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act because Congress must prioritize programs which develop infrastructure on reservations

and enhance economic growth for tribal communities. Additionally, the extreme health problems that many Indian communities face can be linked directly to inadequate housing, problems that can begin to be addressed through this Indian self-determination legislation. The flexibility in funding and in the administration of housing programs that this bill promotes is the key to tribal self-sufficiency and self-determination in housing management. Ultimately, this self-determination will result in increased access to safe, affordable housing for Native American people nationwide.

The unique housing needs of Indian country warrant a continued Federal commitment to successful tribal housing programs. I look forward to working with Chairman LAZIO, my colleagues, and Indian tribes nationwide to make the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act a reality, with the health and welfare of Indian tribes our foremost priority. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for the Hayworth amendment on Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination.

THE COMPETITIVE LIVESTOCK MARKETS ACT OF 1996

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to address the disastrous situation that livestock producers across this Nation are currently facing. At this time, livestock producers are suffering the double-whammy of the lowest prices since the Great Depression and the highest feed prices in a generation. Many producers in my State are facing no choice but to sell out this year as they face losses of several hundred dollars on every head they sell.

Ranchers from across my State have told me that concentration in the meat packing industry has limited competition in the livestock markets. The three largest meat packing firms now control over 80 percent of the cattle slaughter in this country. Independent producers have been squeezed to the point where they are at the mercy of whatever price the giant meat packing firms are willing to offer. Congress must act to restore free and open competition in our Nation's livestock markets.

The legislation I am introducing today will accomplish that goal in the following manner:

First, it directs the Secretary of Agriculture to develop rules to prohibit noncompetitive captive supply arrangements. These captive supply arrangements include formula pricing, forward contracting and packer-owned cattle feeding. The bill does not prohibit all captive supply arrangements between a producer and a packer, only those determined to be detrimental to competition in the livestock markets. This provision will force the livestock trade to occur in a free and open market.

Second, the bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture to implement mandatory reporting of the prices and terms of sale for slaughter livestock purchased by packers who have greater than a 5-percent share of the slaughter market. This information would be public

knowledge and reported immediately. There would be no more secret deals between packers and large feedlots. All producers should have access to information on the terms of sale for slaughter livestock in order to take maximum advantage of free market forces.

Finally, the bill would require the reporting of export sales of meat on a weekly basis. Access to this information will help all livestock producers gain a more realistic picture of supply and demand relationships.

Mr. Speaker, we are facing a crisis of epic proportions among livestock producers in this Nation. From Texas to North Dakota independent family ranchers are facing financial ruin. We must take steps immediately to address what is wrong in this industry. With this bill, we are saying that the large meat packers can no longer control the cattle markets through secret deals and privileged information. We must restore the free markets that the United States is known for around the world. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

WILLIAM DAVIDSON TO RECEIVE DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, next week, Bill Davidson, a good friend and a great American, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In recognizing Bill's many accomplishments and extraordinary commitment to improving our country, the Jewish Theological Seminary speaks for the many people in his community and around the world who have benefited from Bill's extraordinary wisdom and philanthropy.

Bill Davidson is the chairman of the board and president of Guardian Industries Corp. of Northville, MI. Under his wise direction, Guardian has become a solid industrial asset to our economy, as well as a conscientious corporate citizen. Guardian has also been an ambassador of American engineering and way of doing business through its pioneering ventures overseas. These ventures have helped emerging democracies develop a more solid economic base while increasing American presence and influence abroad.

While running his hugely successful company, Bill found the time to volunteer for numerous community organizations. His generosity was recognized in 1992, when he was given the Jewish community's highest honor for outstanding volunteer service, the Fred M. Butzel Memorial Award for Distinguished Community Service. He has given generously of his time and resources to educational institutions, Detroit community organizations, and Jewish organizations nationwide.

Not one to confine himself to the roles of successful businessman and community activist, Bill is also the majority owner of the Detroit Pistons basketball club, the Palace Sports and Entertainment Arena, the Detroit Vipers hockey team and the Detroit Neon soccer team. He was inducted into the Michigan Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 1985.

I commend the Jewish Theological Seminary for recognizing Bill Davidson with a prestigious Honorary Causa. This honorary degree is a testament to Bill's outstanding and continuing contributions to the education and enrichment of the Jewish community and our nation. I invite my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude and most heartfelt congratulations to Bill Davidson on this most joyous occasion.

HONORING DEAN ROGER EICHHORN

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank and honor Dr. Roger Eichhorn as he completes his 14-year tenure as dean of engineering at the University of Houston. The Cullen College of Engineering surely will miss his leadership, but his students and the engineering field will be richer as Dr. Eichhorn returns to teaching and research.

Dr. Eichhorn has a long career of service and contributions to educational, professional, civic, technical, and humanitarian endeavors. He was rightly honored as 1995 Houston Engineer of the Year.

Dr. Eichhorn traces his love of engineering to his days as a farm boy in Minnesota, when he got into trouble regularly for breaking his father's tools. He studied electrical and mechanical engineering at the University of Minnesota, where he received his doctorate while working as an instructor. He then accepted a position as assistant professor at Princeton University, where he was soon awarded the rank of associate professor with tenure. In 1967, he moved on to the University of Kentucky as professor of Mechanical Engineering, serving initially as chairman of the department and later as dean of engineering. In 1982, he came to the University of Houston as a professor of mechanical engineering and dean of the Cullen College of Engineering.

Dr. Eichhorn's long list of honors and awards include: the rank of Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the Memorial Award for Heat Transfer Science, awarded in 1982 by the Heat Transfer Division of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; the Chevalier dans L'Ordre des Palmes Academiques Award presented in 1988 by the French education minister for his contributions to United States-French educational exchanges; and numerous membership awards from honorary scientific societies.

Throughout his career, Dr. Eichhorn has been known as an inspiring teacher, a cutting-edge researcher, and a farsighted advocate for engineering. He has worked tirelessly to help engineers communicate the benefits of their field in improving the quality of life for all of us.

We will miss Dr. Eichhorn's leadership as dean of engineering, but I have no doubt that the students of the University of Houston, the field of engineering, and our community and

country in general will continue to benefit greatly from his many talents.

**HONORING THE GLADDICE
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Gladdice Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

**RETIREMENT OF WILLIAM CARL
GARNER**

HON. BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of this country's most dedicated public servants who is ending his illustrious career of service in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. William Carl Garner began his service with the corps upon graduation from college in 1938 and has been a fixture in the corps in the 58 years since. During that time, he has amassed a list of accomplishments and awards that will be difficult to match.

Mr. Garner has spent most of his career as the chief resident engineer of the Greers Ferry Lake located in central Arkansas in the congressional district I represent. He arrived at the project while the lake was still in the planning stages and turned the first shovel of dirt to start construction in 1959. When the dam was completed in 1963, President Kennedy came to Arkansas to personally dedicate it. Mr. Garner was at his side during the cere-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

mony, even riding in the Presidential limousine to the festivities. Under his care and guidance, the lake has become the most popular recreational attraction in the State of Arkansas.

As any visitor to Greers Ferry Lake will tell you, his lifetime labor of love and dedication has produced one of the cleanest and most beautiful lakes in the country. This is directly attributable to the persistence of Mr. Garner. By 1970 the lake had become popular enough that debris was noticeable all along the 300-mile shoreline. This disturbed Mr. Garner, so he found a solution. Enlisting an army of 300 local volunteers, he established a national trend by holding the first annual cleanup day. Since that time, groups from across the Nation followed his example and now the first Saturday after Labor Day is known as National Federal Public Lands Day Cleanup. Earlier this year, the House passed a bill which would recognize Mr. Garner's contribution by renaming the cleanup day after him. The Senate has also agreed to similar language and it is my hope that the President will sign this most fitting tribute into law soon.

Among the many awards recognizing his illustrious service, he has been named the Arkansas Tourism Council's Man of the Year, received the Department of the Army National Exceptional Civilian Service Award—the Corps of Engineers' highest civilian honor—and was chosen as the Federal Service Employee of the Year for the State of Arkansas. Additionally, the cleanup program he started has received recognition from numerous national environmental organizations.

Although Mr. Garner will no longer be serving as chief engineer, I am sure he will maintain an active role at the lake and on the State and national level. He leaves an enduring legacy, in both the cleanup programs he started and the beautiful lake which he maintained and developed from its inception. I have been personally honored and privileged to have known such a great man and I count his friendship and guidance as one of my most precious possessions from my time in Congress. I would urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a great public servant and a great man, Mr. William Carl Garner.

**TRIBUTE TO THE MONTAUK
RUGBY CLUB**

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Montauk Rugby Club, from the town of East Hampton, Long Island, NY, that is now in competition for the National Rugby Championship.

This local rugby club is a reflection of America at its best. Members come from all walks of life, from carpenters and painters, to teachers and journalists alike. These fine men work 40-plus hours a week, then train in the evening or early morning to keep fit for the game. Many club members travel as far as 30 miles to train and practice. These men have all demonstrated tremendous self-discipline, courage, and great stamina, and that is what

has brought them to the cusp of greatness. With no paycheck driving them on, these true amateurs are inspired simply by their love for the game, the rugby players who came before them, and the teammates they play with every week.

Founded in 1973 by local landscaper Charlie Whitmore, Montauk has prospered thanks to the dedication of its players and sponsors, Amagansett Building Materials and local chiropractor Dr. Richard Kelly. Both have been major benefactors to the team and should be commended for their benevolence.

The men of the Montauk Rugby Club are active members of their community, volunteering their free time to help their neighbors on eastern Long Island. When not working or playing, you can find them cleaning up our town parks and beaches, or donating their time to work with local children. This summer, Montauk is hosting a national qualifying tournament, "The Hampton 7's," where some of the best players and teams in the country will compete, with the victor going to the National Championship. The proceeds of the tournament will go to several local charities, including the Meals on Wheels Program, the East Hampton Village Policeman's Benevolent Association, the East Hampton Ambulance Association, and the Peter Landri Scholarship fund.

Rich Brierley, the youth team's coach, deserves special recognition for his hard work and dedication to the children of Montauk. Rich works as a carpenter by day, then at night goes to the local park to practice with the adult team, or coach the young rugby players of Montauk. Driven only by his passion for the game and his love of coaching, Rich is an example for all Americans to follow. Our children are our most important resource and they should be taught the self-discipline and camaraderie that team sports, such as rugby, instill. All of Montauk and East Hampton will thank Rich when his proteges mature and become leaders on the field and in their communities.

There is another story here, a story of how what we do here in Washington affects the life of ordinary Americans. Last fall, the Montauk Rugby Club went 8-0 in the regular season. They were stopped in the playoffs not by an opponent, but because Federal Government's shutdown made sure that the playoff field they needed was unavailable. The teams had to wait until after the winter months, and only now are able to continue their conquest for a National Championship.

By finishing second in the northeast regional tournament, Montauk has qualified for the national quarter finals and will play in Dallas this weekend. Entering their league in division III, they battled their way to become the 1995 undefeated division II champions and in the running for the national crown. Montauk is 1 of 16 teams in the U.S. bound for Dallas. They go into this tournament seeded third, if they win they will go on to the National Championship round in Chicago on Memorial Day weekend.

Congratulations and best of luck to the Montauk Rugby Club. May you bring back many more national titles to our neighbors in East Hampton.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS IN
THE WORKPLACE

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the interest of bringing to your attention the issue of religious discrimination in employment. It is my pleasure to represent a district which is rich with diverse religions and great religious institutions. The December 1995 issue of *Meat & Poultry*, included an excellent article in the Labor Report entitled "Honor Thy Neighbor," by Richard Alaniz. I bring this article to the attention of my colleagues and urge them to read it and to stand for religious accommodations in the workplace in accordance with the Civil Rights Act.

Years of publicity and high profile litigation have made most employers aware of the various state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, sex, disability and age. What many employers don't know is that Title VII, the primary federal anti-discrimination law, also prohibits discrimination based on religion.

Due to a lack of complaints and perhaps a general unwillingness to accept such claims, religious discrimination has not been brought to the forefront of the average employer's concern. This could all change as the country leans toward conservatism and as groups such as the Christian Coalition attempt to bring religion into the mainstream.

A recent case involving one of the nation's largest employers and religious discrimination may be indicative of future trends. Wal-Mart, the Arkansas-based retail behemoth, settled a religious discrimination suit brought by a former employee. The employee claimed the retailer forced him to quit after he refused to work on his Sabbath. Rather than litigate the claim, Wal-Mart opted to settle. The settlement calls for the retail chain to train all managers in how to reasonably accommodate workers' religious beliefs as well as pay the plaintiff an undisclosed sum of money.

Wal-Mart is not the only business facing this new problem. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has brought several religious discrimination suits against other businesses, especially in the Midwest and South. While the focus has been on retail establishments, it could shift to any employer who has weekend shifts.

The basis for many of these lawsuits is that many businesses have no guidelines or policies to handle requests for religious accommodation, which often means having a weekend work-day off. Many employers feel it is easier to require everyone to work weekends rather than grant exceptions which would create jealousy and an administrative headache.

However, the courts have clearly stated employers are required to reasonably accommodate requests to observe the Sabbath or other religious days unless the request causes "undue hardship" to the business.

In order to prevent claims of religious discrimination, an employer should have a policy dealing with employee requests to observe the Sabbath or other religious days. Employers should not have blanket policies requiring weekend work unless they are prepared to justify that to grant days off would be an undue hardship on the business. Typi-

cal examples of what may constitute "undue hardship" are: difficulty to replace an employee due to a lack of notice or simply not having enough employees; importance of the employee; or economic hardship on the employer.

Scheduling problems are not the only area where employers face the possibility of religious discrimination. In many offices it's common for employees to have bibles, signs, posters or other religious articles on their desks. It's also typical for some persons to talk openly about their religious beliefs and perhaps refer to these beliefs in some aspect of performing their job. This raises the delicate question of how an employer walks the line between allowing employees to express their religious beliefs and maintaining a professional work environment that does not invite friction between individuals of different religions.

This can be especially difficult when a supervisor or other decisionmaker is the one proclaiming his religious beliefs. The classic example is the fundamentalist Christian employer who only promotes persons of the same religion and church as the employer. This could easily be challenged as a form of religious discrimination in which the company could be liable.

A company's policy should apply equally and fairly to all individuals and religions within the organization. Religious activities that don't impose upon others, disrupt the workplace or create morale problems should be the focus of the policy. For example, this could include a bible on the desk or wearing a cross or other religious symbol as jewelry. Examples of conduct employers probably should not accommodate are proselytizing in the workplace, statements or evidence of religious favoritism, or use of company time and resources for religious practices.

Using company time and resources for religious practices can be particularly dangerous. In one well-known case, a business required employees to attend staff meetings that began with a short non-denominational talk and prayer. An atheist employee resigned, sued the company and claimed her freedom of conscience was violated by the prayer. The court of appeals ruled the plaintiff's resignation was justified and that the prayers constituted religious discrimination. The voluntary and nondenominational nature of the prayer was discouraged by the court in favor of the plaintiff's claim of a feeling of compulsion to attend and participate.

Court decisions such as these leave little room for employers to conduct similar religious practices in the workplace. No matter how generic or vague a religious practice may be, there is always the chance it will be deemed offensive by someone.

The key to avoiding embarrassing and costly litigation is to prepare a clearly defined policy addressing religion, permissible and impermissible actions and to train managers and supervisors to recognize those circumstances in which allegations of religious discrimination may arise. By taking a few simple steps and providing for "reasonable accommodation" of religious practices, a proactive company can avoid the time and expense of an unnecessary law suit.

HONORING THE HARDYS CHAPEL
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Hardys Chapel Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
RURAL HEALTH CORPORATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Rural Health Corp. of northeastern Pennsylvania [RHC]. Tomorrow, the RHC board of directors, employees, and friends of the agency will celebrate 25 years of success, and I am pleased to have been asked to participate in this event.

The Rural Health Corp. has been instrumental providing public health services to the residents of northeastern and central Pennsylvania. The RHC is a private, nonprofit corporation that was founded for the purpose of providing primary and preventive health care to the medically underserved. It concentrates its efforts on helping those people who are isolated geographically or economically from major health service centers, and who have limited alternative health resources.

The RHC is governed by a volunteer, unpaid board of directors selected from the areas served by the corporation; over 50 percent of the board members have utilized the facility's services. The corporation currently

serves almost 18,000 individuals throughout the area, providing comprehensive pediatric, adolescent, and adult health care at six medical and three dental centers. Other services include community health education, nutrition education, and transportation.

The first patients were seen by the RHC staff in January 1971, in the first RHC building. By 1973, three additional buildings had been constructed to serve the rapidly growing number of patients that were seeking services from the RHC. The next 4 years focused on expanding services, and strengthening the quality of care. Since 1977, two additional medical centers and one dental center were opened, and a new building replaced the RHC's original facility. In addition, the RHC opened a pharmacy, and a centralized management information system complete with computerized financial, billing, and patient data systems.

RHC has participated in a number of innovative health care programs. Between 1984 and 1988, the corporation established the PennCare Health Plan, a prepaid health care program for medical assistance recipients. In the fall of 1987, the RHC launched the Luzerne County Integration Project to replace the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Immunization Program, which was then terminated in Luzerne County. The corporation administered the area's State subsidized program of vaccination for peridiatric patients.

In 1987, the RHC responded to a Federal initiative to extend health services to the homeless under the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act. Services provided by the medical care facility include patient outreach and case management, mental health and substance abuse counseling, emergency and inpatient hospitalization.

The services that the RHC has provided during its years of operation have saved and improved the lives of thousands of people. During its 25-year history, the RHC has evolved from a small county practice into one of the largest providers of primary care in the region, and one of the largest nonprofit community health center programs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The RHC can be proud of all that it has accomplished. I salute the Rural Health Corp. of northeastern Pennsylvania and wish it continued success as it strives to improve the quality of lives of the people it serves.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES R. NUNES

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James R. Nunes, who is retiring after 33 distinguished years as a police officer and 17 years as Chief of Police in Pleasant Hill, California.

Chief Nunes' distinguished career began in 1959 when he served as a military police officer in the United States Army. He then progressed through the ranks in both the Hayward and Sausalito police departments.

In 1979, he arrived in Pleasant Hill to serve as Chief of Police. He has maintained that es-

teemed rank to the present, and retires with pride after a long and meritorious career serving the Bay Area.

Chief Nunes has proven himself as a leader among leaders in the field of law enforcement officers and he embodies the very best in community spirit. Beyond his professional duties, he has volunteered his time and energies to a variety of organizations and activities. His caring and dedication are hallmarks of both his professional and personal life.

I know that the other members of the House will join me in thanks to Chief James Nunes for his years of dedicated service to society and wish him the very best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO COMDR. CHESTER O. BURTON, U.S. NAVY

HON. OWEN B. PICKETT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly outstanding naval officer, Comdr. Chester Burton, Supply Corps, U.S. Navy, who will soon be completing his tour of duty in the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs. It is a pleasure for me to recognize several of his many outstanding achievements.

A native of northern Wisconsin, Commander Burton received an undergraduate degree in marketing from St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, MN. After growing up in a rural farming community, Commander Burton felt what better way to see the world than to join the navy. After completing Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI, Chet was commissioned an Ensign in September 1980. He subsequently attended the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, GA, completing the qualifications to be designated a Supply Corps Officer. After completing basic submarine school Commander Burton reported as Supply Officer of the submarine *LaJolla* (SSN-701) being built at Electric Boat in Groton, CT. During his tour aboard *LaJolla*, Commander Burton was a member of the Commissioning Crew and participated in the ships changing homeport to San Diego, CA.

Following his initial sea tour, Commander Burton served at the Naval Supply Depot in Guam. He then reported to the Naval Air Systems Command in Arlington, VA, where he was selected to participate in the Navy Acquisition Contracting Officer internship program. Due to his outstanding performance as contracting officer for the Rolls Royce engine used on the AV-8B Harrier Jet, he received the Secretary of the Navy's award for excellence in fostering competition and reducing procurement costs.

Subsequent to his tour at NAVAIR, Commander Burton returned to sea duty aboard the submarine tender U.S.S. *Dixon* homeported in San Diego. He then did back-to-back sea tours reporting as Supply Officer aboard U.S.S. *Ohio*, a trident class ballistic missile submarine.

Due to his outstanding performance, he was selected to attend postgraduate school after completing his tour aboard *Ohio*. Commander Burton completed a masters of business ad-

ministration degree at the University of Virginia's Darden Graduate Business School in May 1991. Following graduate school he reported to the Pentagon where he was the executive assistant to the Director of the Supply Programs and Policy Division, a Navy rear admiral, on the Chief of Naval Operations staff.

Commander Burton reported to the Navy Legislative Affairs Office in August 1993. During his tenure Chet has been considered the navy's procurement expert on Capitol Hill. In addition to handling literally thousands of inquiries relating to naval contracts, he has been responsible for organizing numerous government small business conferences in which many of our constituents have learned the basics about contracting with the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, Chet Burton, his wife Amy and their two children Douglas and Sarah, have made many sacrifices during his 16-year naval career. Serving on two submarines and a submarine tender, Chet has spent a significant amount of time underway away from his family to support the vital role our naval forces play in our national security. Commander Burton is a great credit to the U.S. Navy and the country he so proudly serves. As he now prepares to depart to yet another new challenge, I call upon my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to wish him every success as well as fair winds and following seas always.

TRIBUTE TO MARCO ANTONIO MUÑIZ, "THE MOST BELOVED VOICE OF AMERICA"

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Marco Antonio Muñiz, one of the most loved and cherished singers among Hispanics in all of the Americas. This weekend Marco Antonio Muñiz will be given two special performances at Hostos Community College in my congressional district of the South Bronx.

Marco Antonio Muñiz was born in 1933 in Guadalajara, Mexico. His passion for music started at a very early age, and even as a child he would take every opportunity to sing at events in Guadalajara.

As a young man, Marco Antonio joined the musical group "Veracruz" and later on became a member of "Los Tres Ases," a trio which brought him international fame. "Los Tres Ases" held performances in all of Latin America and recorded eight LPs, copies of which are still available in music stores. Among the many hits the group achieved include: "Mi último fracaso" ("My last failure"), "100 Mujeres" ("100 Women"), "Que Seas Feliz" ("I Wish You Happiness"), and "El Reloj" ("The Clock").

While still at the summit of success, Marco Antonio decided to leave the trio and seek a new challenge as a soloist. He struggled in the beginning, but soon won the admiration of many in Mexico and the rest of the Americas.

Although his repertoire ranges from traditional Mariachi music to romantic ballads, Marco Antonio Muñiz is internationally acclaimed as one of the greatest singers of romantic music. He is commonly called "The

Most Beloved Voice of America," "The Romantic Singer of America," "The Luxury of Mexico," and "The Uncontainable."

His music has won the hearts of many Puerto Ricans. Marco Antonio has performed in Puerto Rico for the past 34 Christmas holiday seasons without a break. His simplicity of character and undeniable passion in his singing have gained him recognition as one of the most talented singers of the Americas.

I have a collection of 50 LPs by Marco Antonio Muñoz. His exceptional career has featured numerous hits and record sales. And among his recordings is a collection of albums dedicated to Puerto Rican composers Rafael Hernández, Sylvia Rexach, and Pedro Flores. I am proud to say that my first son, José Marco, was named after him.

The Hispanic community of the South Bronx is honored to receive this giant of Latin American music.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Marco Antonio Muñoz, the most beloved singer of the Americas, for giving to the Hispanic community the gift of beautiful music.

HONORING THE KITTRELL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Kittrell Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

ROLLING MEADOWS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize some outstanding business leaders in my district who have risen to the top in their respective fields. Tonight they will be recognized by the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce for their efforts and achievements. I would like to take a moment to recognize each for their accomplishments in the hopes that their achievements will inspire others to follow their lead.

Kristine M. Stabler, the vice president and head of sales for the Arlington International Racecourse, has been named the Business Leader of the Year. She has worked in the business community at Arlington International Racecourse for 14 years and was given the added responsibility to serve as a liaison between the racetrack and the business community. The Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce adds that "she is also the coordinator of the International Festival of Racing, highlighted by the Arlington Million and oversees the retail operations, guest relations and special events." Her interaction with businesses and the community is extensive and her accomplishments impressive.

The Platinum Home Mortgage Corp., which is a family-owned business, has been awarded the Small Business of the Year Award. Although the company is only 2½ years old, it has grown both physically and financially. It has brought on staff 88 employees and has opened offices in Chicago, IL, River Grove, IL, and Denver, CO. It is now the fourth largest government residential loan provider in my State. The Platinum Home Mortgage Corp. is truly representative of success as they continue to grow.

Kevin T. Kendrigan, the director of the Northwest Special Recreation Association [NSRA] has been recognized as the Community Leader of the Year. His resume offers an extensive list of memberships to associations and community groups. Even more impressive are his accomplishments at the NSRA, which now serves over 2,500 people monthly and conducts 250 programs for both children and adults.

The Community Consolidated School District 15 has been awarded the Exceptional Business/Educational Environment Award. District 15 has blended traditional educational classes with interaction between various business and community leaders to offer students a more worldly education. Through innovative new programs at the local level, sponsored by private industries, our education system will be more effective in turning out students who will have the skills and knowledge that companies need as they enter the next century.

One award, the Business Beautification Award, was shared this year between two impressive edifices. The first is Michaels Glass and Mirror, Inc., which offers a wide variety of glass work, including auto glass, commercial and residential glazing, store fronts, table tops, shower doors, and mirrors. The second is the

Rolling Meadows Shopping Center, owned by Baird and Warner. Both businesses have undergone substantial renovations to attract new customers and support businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I commend all of the winners of the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce awards. But more importantly, I thank all of them for their contributions to the community in which they live. I and the residents of the Eighth Congressional District of Illinois are proud of them.

CONDEMNING THE KKK AND EVERYTHING FOR WHICH IT STANDS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Constitution establishes the fundamental rights we enjoy as Americans. It embodies what is good and right in America. The first amendment to our Constitution provides for the right to peacefully assemble, and it enshrines free speech as being a basic tenet upon which the democracy of our great Nation rests.

As history has taught us, the Constitution, which represents so much of what is good in our country, also protects those who promote evil. I am sad to say that the Ku Klux Klan [KKK], which embraces bigotry, hatred, and intolerance, will exercise its first amendment rights and rally in Portage, IN this Saturday, May 11. I join the overwhelming majority of Portage residents—and others in Northwest Indiana—in condemning the KKK and everything for which it stands.

The Ku Klux Klan is reviled around the world for its association with terror and violence. Through violence and intimidation, the KKK has historically punished opposing persons or groups, traditionally persons of color and religious minorities. Since its inception, the KKK has engaged in despicable acts of violence and hate, characterized by lynchings in the rural South, cross burnings, and other forms of hate crime. There is no place in our diverse society for this divisiveness. We must do everything within our power to stop the KKK and other perpetrators of hate crime.

In repudiation of the KKK, a wide variety of people and organizations in Indiana's First Congressional District will convene a prodiversity counter-rally to show America that the KKK's attempt to spread hatred in our community will not prevail. This Saturday, while the KKK exercises its right to assemble, an immense group of civic, business, religious, and student leaders will gather at Woodland Park in Portage, IN, to emphasize their message of unity and brotherhood.

The prodiversity rally is the brainchild of Eric Mason and Michael Krueger, two Portage High School seniors. As a result of their commitment to embrace and commemorate ethnic, racial, and religious diversity, the prodiversity rally, has grown into an enormous celebration. Participants at the prodiversity rally will include: Portage Mayor Sammie Maletta; a keynote speech by Jack Parton, director of the United Steelworkers of America [USWA] district 7; and the Reverend David Kehert, Dean of the chapel at Valparaiso University.

Several other organizations have passed resolutions or offered support for the prodiversity rally and its laudable ideals. Jack Parton, director of the USWA, district 7, has urged all steelworkers to attend the rally, while USWA Local 1014, United Steel Group's Gary Works, and an association of retired steelworkers, have also expressed their support for the counterrally. Alice Bush, spokesperson for the Healthcare Workers of America, district 1199, stated that her organization and Whispering Pines Health Care Center in Valparaiso, IN, are donating medical supplies for a first-aid tent at Woodland Park. This fine labor group serves all of Northwest Indiana. In addition, the Calumet project, a Hammond-based coalition of religious, labor, and community groups covering all of Northwest Indiana, has offered its support at the prodiversity rally.

Meanwhile, 29 pastors representing all faiths and almost all Portage churches, have united under the Pastors United for

RacialEquality [P.U.R.E.] banner. P.U.R.E. has approved a resolution stating that, even though the KKK often uses Christian symbolism, it unequivocally and wholeheartedly condemns the ideals of the KKK and those of any such proclaimers of hate in our society. In addition, there will be a candlelight vigil to counter the KKK rally, sponsored by the Valparaiso Ministerial Association. The ministerial association is encouraging church members and others to make pledges to charitable causes which benefit minority groups or combat racism and bigotry.

Businesses are rallying together to oppose the KKK rally. In an effort to keep residents away from the KKK rally and promote security, Portage city officials have asked that Portage businesses near the site band together and close on Saturday afternoon. In support of this plea, many businesses have agreed to close early.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the founders of the prodiversity rally, Eric Mason and Michael Krueger, for having the wisdom to bring the community of Northwest Indiana together to promote peace and harmony. May the actions of these distinguished young men, the participants in the prodiversity rally, as well as all of the organizations and community leaders who have pulled together to condemn the white supremacists' message—and, instead, promote diversity—be emulated by other towns and cities. The prodiversity rally is a powerful example of how to overcome hatred and pull together to promote unity. I join these dignified members of Indiana's First Congressional District in their commitment to ethnic, racial, and religious diversity. These ideals are truly what continues to make America the greatest country in the world.